

Hazardous Materials Bulletin

FUEL TANKS MOUNTED TO VEHICLES

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Fuel tanks (liquid or gaseous) permanently mounted to a vehicle to fuel equipment on the vehicle is usually excepted from the Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations (FHMR). There are some restrictions:

- The tanks must meet the requirements of Subpart E of Part 393 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR).
- The tanks must meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standards.
- The tanks must not be used as a packaging for hazardous materials. In other words, the tanks cannot be cargo (such as extra cylinders or portable tanks) to be used once on-site. The tanks must actually fuel the equipment on the vehicle.

If all of these provisions are complied with, the tanks do not have to comply with the FHMR. If the tanks do not comply with any of these provisions, then the tanks are hazardous materials packages and all of the FHMR applies.

The movement of self-propelled vehicles containing hazardous materials (fuel tanks, batteries, etc.) on another vehicle is specifically addressed in the FHMR. Section 173.220 contains specific provisions for hazardous materials contained in a self-propelled vehicle that are transported on another vehicle.

Dispensing tanks, such as the tanks commonly seen on pick up trucks in agricultural or construction operations, are not fuel tanks and are subject to the FHMR. The use of these tanks for gasoline is illegal unless the tank meets all of the USDOT package specifications. These tanks may be used for diesel fuel without complying with the FHMR provided the capacity of the tank does not exceed 119 gallons (450 liters). If the tank exceeds this amount, shipping papers, markings, and placards are required.

Also, it is illegal in Michigan to transfer a hazardous material from one container to another on a public road including the shoulder or ditch. The only exceptions are when fueling machinery or equipment for construction, farm, or maintenance use; fueling emergency vehicles; or with the approval and supervision of the local fire chief in an emergency situation.

For tanks that are regulated by Title 49, under §172.606(b), trailers left without motive power at a location other than a consignee's, consignor's, or carrier's facility must have the shipping paper and emergency response information readily available on the vehicle; they mark the front of the vehicle with the carrier's telephone number near the brake hose and electrical connections; or comply with the facility operators requirements in §172.602(c)(2). This requirement does not apply to vehicles displaying the appropriate USDOT markings and/or placards.

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Michigan State Police Motor Carrier Division www.michigan.gov/motorcarrier

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